आवश्यक होता है तो उस समय नीति परख हस्तक्षेप करके उपयुक्त उपाय किए जाते हैं।

US proposal for removal of Tariff regulation from Global Information Teconology Industry

51. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has sought to introduce an interim proposal for procurement and a time-frame for removal of all tariff regulation in items used in the global information technology industry, before the meeting of Balance of Payment Committee in January, 1997; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The U.S. has made a proposal for an agreement on information technology industry to reduce tariff on information technology related goods by the year 2000. The Government is examining the merits of the proposal.

Indo-Bangladesh Bilateral Relations

52. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government recently to improve Indo-Bangladesh bilateral relations;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the maintenance of friendly and cooperative relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, soon after the installation of new Government in Bangladesh the Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka in July 1996 to consider steps to move forward on all issues in the bilateral relations. A second round of discussions was held during the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary to India from August 6—9, 1996. The discussions were further carried on during External Affairs Minister's visit to Dhaka in September 1996, during Bangladesh Water Resources Minister's visit to India in October 1996, and during Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit to India in November 1996. The discussion, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, have covered all the major issues in the bilateral relations.

To further promote Indo-Bangladesh trade, the External Affairs Minister, while in Dhaka, announced that the Government would grant fourteen categories of exports from Bangladesh 50% tariff concessions across the board. It was also decided to expedite action on demarcation of the land boundary and exchange of enclaves. On the Chakma issue, in response to an invitation conveyed by India, the Bangladesh side has conveyed that High-powered delegation would visit Tripura to interact with the refugees and encourage them to return to their homes. The two sides have agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to curb undersirable activities. A Joint Committee of Experts has been formed to look into the issue of sharing of Ganga Waters and both sides have reiterated their intention of arriving at an agreement on a fair and equitable sharing before the onset of the next dry season.

वस्त्र उद्योगों में आरक्षित सूची संबंधी समिति

53. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वस्त्र उद्योग में आरक्षित सूची के संबंध में सलाह देने के लिये सरकार द्वारा एक 30 सदस्यीय समिति का गठन किया गया था, यदि हां, तो कब;

(ख) क्या समिति ने सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है, यदि हां, तो कब;

(ग) यदि हां, तो रिपोर्ट में क्या-क्या सुझाव दिए गए हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने समिति के सुझावों पर कार्रवाई करने का निर्णय किया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर.एल. जालप्पा): (क) जी हां। यह समिति अगस्त 1993 में गठित की गई थी।

(ख) इस समिति ने नवम्बर 1995 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत कर दी है।

(ग) इस समिति ने केवल हथकरघों पर उत्पादन करने के लिए कुछ वस्त्र मदों को आरक्षित करने की सिफारिश की है।

(घ) इस समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर सरकार ने 11 वस्त्र मदों को केवल हथकरघों पर ही उत्पादन करने हेतु आरक्षित किया है और इस संबंध में 7 अगस्त, 1996 को एक अधिसूचना जारी की गई। आरक्षित वस्त्र मदों की एक सूची विवरण में संलग्न है।

विवरण

क्र० सं०	हथकरघों के लिए आरक्षित मदों का नाम
1.	साड़ी
2.	धोती
3.	तौलिया, गमछा और अंगवस्त्रम्
4.	लुंगी
5.	खेस, बैडशीट, बैडकवर, पलंगपोश, फर्नीसिंग (जिसमें टेपेस्ट्री, अपहाजरी शामिल है)
6.	जामाकालम दरी या डरट
7.	ड्रेस मेटेरियल
8.	बैरक कम्बल, कम्बल या कम्बली
9.	शॉल, लोई मफलर, पंखी इत्यादि
10.	ऊनी कपड़ा (वूलन ट्वीड)
11.	चादर, मेखला/फणिक

Proposals Received from Punjab for National Highways

54. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State of Punjab during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 regarding National Highways, indicating the regions and roads to which the proposals pertain;

(b) the details of the proposals sanctioned, together with the allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) 3 proposal were received in respect of National Highway Nos. 1-A, 10 and 15, during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 for Punjab State.

(b) and (c) 2 proposals amounting to Rs. 427 lakhs have been sanctioned. Allocations are made to the State Government as a whole and not work-wise. The following allocations have been made for National Highway (original) works:

(i) 1995-96 — Rs. 59.10 Crores

(ii) 1996-97 — Rs. 58.0 Crores

Seismic survey by Chinese Vessels in India

55. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the seismic survey of a large militarily sensitive area in India proposed to be conducted by a Chinese vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Acquisition of land for By-passes on National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

56. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the provision made for acquisition of land for by-passes to be constructed on National Highways passing though Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of locations of by-passes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the details at this stage.

Change in norms for opening new Post Offices

57. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed its norms for opening new post offices;